

WOLGAST AND PAPKE DO GERMAN HONOR

Fighters of Teutonic Parentage Worthy of Pugilism's Hall of Fame.

BOTH WERE CHAMPIONS

Few Other Subjects of the Kaiser Ever Achieved Any Ring Prominence.

In pugilism's hall of fame there are two niches that never would have been there but for the prowess displayed by two fighters who take great pride in the fact that they come of the German race. Both were born in America, but their parents are Teutons, and so, of course, they are German-Americans, writes Ray C. Pearson in the Chicago Tribune.

If it hadn't been for these two fighting men who represented two different classes of pugilism, the German in the fighting game would not have amounted to much. The "dope" shows that up to the time they appeared on the scene there were few who ever had made much of a splash in the boxing sea, and this despite the fact that they were not lacking in numbers.

Wolgast and Papke, the Spring Valley, Ill., middleweight, was the first to start something for the Germans, and his success left no doubt in the minds of those who follow the sport closely as to whether the boys of his race are made of the stuff of which great fighters are constituted.

Papke proceeded to settle the argument once and for all, by achieving the greatest honor that any fighter may gain—the world's championship in his class.

Wolgast's Pride of Germans.

Closely on the heels of Papke came another German who didn't stop until he had had the honor of occupying the place of world's lightweight champion. His name was Wolgast and he hailed from Cadillac, Mich., where his parents, who were of the German race, were born.

Wolgast's career was marked by the title of "Michigan Bearcat" and "Cadillac Dutchman." It really isn't necessary to say a great deal about Wolgast, for every one who knows anything about boxing knows that he was one of the greatest lightweights that ever crawled through the ropes to do battle.

Papke and Wolgast were the two boys that carried their race to the front, for it is hard to find a fighter who ever achieved anything resembling prominence. A few years ago Milwaukee boasted a German named Charlie Neary, who "unintentionally" made a name for himself merely threatened, for when it came to the real test he was not "there" by a long way. The brewery fight made several good fights, according to the "dope," every one of which took place in Milwaukee. It soon became known around that the boys were playing the "favorite son" stuff to the limit, which, it was claimed, accounted for Neary's success.

"Fighting Harp" Surprises.

No something was "framed" for the Milwaukee Dutchman. A Chicago promoter, after much persuasion, managed to sign Neary for a bout in the Chicago suburb of Blue Island. The promoter already had signed the other fighter, who happened to be Willie Fitzgerald, known as "Fighting Harp." Neary was a good scrapper when in his prime, and was pretty fair at the time the match was made.

Neary and his manager took the bait nicely and journeyed down to Chicago to meet the "las-been." What happened to Neary was a surprise to all who were watching the fight. For the full ten rounds Fitzgerald knocked Neary to the canvas just as often as the latter could get up. There were so many knockdowns that everybody at the ringside lost count, but Neary gamely took the gaff. The "Fighting Harp" was a real fighter, and he was not a square jawed fellow, but a real fighter, and he was covered with Neary's blows, and it was the most complete beating that any fighter ever received.

That fight about finished the brewery City fighter, and even in Milwaukee after that he accomplished nothing worth talking about.

Several Others Fair Boxers.

There are a few German-Americans performing at the present time who possess fair claim to being in the pugilism's hall of fame. One of them is a German-American, a westerner, hailing from Hibbing, Minn. Both are lightweights. Leo Houck, the Lancaster, Pa., middleweight, gave great promise a couple of years ago, but he has not achieved any great success with the padded mitts since then. At Kaufmann of California is another German-American of the present time, who is a terror at the hands of men who under no circumstances could be rated as top-notchers in the heavyweight division.

But going back to Papke and Wolgast shows most conclusively that the Germans must be reckoned with in the boxing game. The man from whom the title was credited with being the greatest fighter of modern pugilism, and though Billy Papke is not long hold his laurels, the credit for that victory cannot be taken away from him. Incidentally it is worthy of note that the Illinois "Thunderbolt" knocked out his opponent, and then he was knocked out by Stanley Ketchel, now numbered among those who have passed on. Papke had beaten everybody that he met until he bumped up against Ketchel, and in their first battle, a ten-round affair, Stanley was given the decision, which drew a disgusted roar from the forces. Then a twenty-round fight was arranged, and it was in this second mill that Papke won the title from Ketchel by a knockout in the twelfth round.

Verdict Reversed by Ketchel.

It is a pity that the next fight of this nature to be seen in the pugilism's hall of fame, Ketchel turned around and knocked out Papke in eleven rounds, reversing the decision.

The "Thunderbolt" had held the title for less than three months. Papke is still a member of the fighting fraternity, but he is near the end of his fighting string, as his recent bouts show.

Wolgast also is about through with the game, for he was announced not long ago that he would not fight again. With the lightweight title the Michigan "Bearcat" turned a trick that no other fighter had been able to turn, and that was to give that famous Dane, that Nelson, a beating. It took Wolgast forty rounds to do it, but he certainly did a businesslike job. Nelson never was the same fighter after that beating.

The Michigan German held the crown for less than two years and finally lost it through the medium of a fight with the reigning title being Willie Ritchie of San Francisco. That bout ended in the sixteenth round, and from Ritchie's performance since it is evident that Wolgast was up against the real thing. After losing to Ritchie, Wolgast found the toboggan waiting for him, and he has been sliding pugilistically ever since. "Harlem Tommy" Murphy beat him in twenty rounds, and the easterner never was conceded a chance to be champion.

But defeat has to come to the best of them at some time, and Wolgast's defeat came just as had that of Nelson and the famous negro, Gans, before him, but in looking over those who have been champions of the game, it is found that Wolgast was one of the best and toughest pieces of fighting machinery that ever swung a glove.

Old Master Goes Pace That Made Him World Idol

CHRISTY MATHEWSON.

President of International League to Put Audacious Scheme Into Effect Next Spring; Majors May Adopt Idea if Successful.

By W. J. MACBETH.
By International News Service.

NEW YORK, July 26.—Edward Barrow, the bustling president of the International league, is the original "Bull Moose" of organized baseball. He is ultra progressive in his views and actions, and he wields the big stick with determination and foresight. Under his regime the International league has prospered greatly and minor league baseball in general has shared that prosperity.

To the untiring efforts of Barrow is largely due the fact that the three most powerful minor leagues are graded higher than had been the case before he assumed office. The more exalted rating carried with it any number of advantages and privileges. The class AA clubs are not only better paid, but also the new order of things made compulsory a revision of rating and privilege all the way down the line from the two major circuits to the more obscure "brush" organizations. In short, a new working agreement had to be framed, a more up-to-date peace pact, as it were.

Has Revolutionary Plan.

Barrow has already done quite enough for minor league baseball to establish his name as a real champion of the cause. But he is not a man who is content to live on reputation. He purposes next year to inaugurate the most radical changes in the history of the principal disadvantages under which the big family of the national pastime now toils. Barrow has the nerve to try a scheme which, if successful, is bound to do no less than revolutionize the administration of the game.

The players of the International league next spring will be pooled at the spring schedule meeting after they have all been put under contract. The various magnates will cast lots for first choice. They will draw for the various prizes of the circuit. Barrow believes that in this way and only in this way will it be possible to distribute the talent as evenly as possible among the various club owners. He believes that such a course will result in a much better balanced organization; that every team will have a chance for the pennant; that the result of the closer competitions should prove more interesting to fandom in general and more remunerative to the magnates.

Interest World-wide.

If the International league club owners have the nerve to introduce the scheme of their president, it will at least assure a fine trial of the proposed remedy for many of the present drawbacks of the game. The experiment should be worth a great deal for advertising purposes alone. It would attract the attention of the International league to that of the big leagues. The whole country would be interested in the outcome and no one would watch the results with greater interest than the powers of the two major leagues.

Barrow's theory appears a most sound one. So far it is only theory. If it would stand the acid test in the minor league it is a certainty that it would be welcomed in the big show. There is no more discouraging element in the promotion of major league baseball than the seeming inability of second division clubs to get competent talent.

Yankees Are Example.

The New York American club is a very good illustration of this. In the last five years Frank Farrell has spent fortunes trying to build up a losing club. Today it is right where it was in 1908—away back in the rack. All his money has been thrown away.

There is absolutely no sentiment in baseball. Not a rival manager would give Frank Farrell a word of advice if he thought it would serve later to help the Peerless Leader win a game from him. It is almost impossible to dig major league class from the bushes. Talent has to be developed. There is

Frenchman Defeats Wells.

Carpenter won a few unimportant fights and was matched with Bombardeur Wells. The French enthusiast declared that he was fighting in the class to which he belonged. Wells was nearly half a foot taller and twenty-five pounds heavier. He was a dashing, dashing punch. England chuckled over the fact that he was in store for a fight with a Frenchman.

The rest is recent ring history. Wells knocked the small French heavyweight down twice in the first round, and then he was badly hurt. Carpenter took his time like a veteran—which he is—and came up for the second round as strong as ever, and he was fighting in the air by a frenzied mob of Frenchmen who shrieked and laughed and fought each other for the privilege of getting near enough to touch their champion.

From that day nothing could convince a citizen of France that Carpenter was the greatest heavyweight champion since the days of Hercules.

So now M. Vienne, the famous French boxing promoter, has matched Carpenter and Palmer for October. Vienne expects to see Carpenter whip Palmer as easily as he did Wells.

Carpenter is a splendid fighter for his size. He is very fast, very clever, and a hard hitter. He has the quick intelligence that is native to the volatile, inventive Frenchman.

But in the line, stolid Palmer, unlike his patient under punishment and Berserk-mad when the fighting fury boils through his veins, Carpenter will not find a Wells. Palmer is too big, too strong, too sturdy, too game, too furiously determined in battle for any man of Carpenter's weight and experience to beat.

WHY CHIEF JOHNSON
TOOK RECENT SLUMP

PEORIA, Ill., July 26.—According to a story printed in this city, Pitcher George Johnson's home, the Bib Chief will be fined \$10 in cold, hard cash the next time he throws a curve ball. At the same time he will be sent back the same amount for every time thereafter he violates the order. This restriction was placed on the Indian pitcher by Joe Tinker, manager of the Cincinnati Reds. The order came as a result of an accident recently in which one of the Cincinnati catchers was hurt by one of Chief's slant balls. Johnson has such a big curve that the backstops have a hard time holding him, and for that reason they seldom, if ever, call for one of them. In a letter to Earl Harrison, Chief George said that the ban placed on his curve ball was what made him go to the bad for a while. He said he hoped to start pitching in his regular turn soon, and that he felt sure that he would do good. Johnson was on the sick list with a cold for quite a spell, which accounted for the fact that he was not used for some time.

Barrow Proposes to Draw for Men at Start of Season

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a dearth of material—not enough good players to go round. And naturally minor league clubs with something to sell prefer to do business with the successful major outfits, not because the market is any better, but because of the fact that their stars are more likely to be turned back again at some sort of sound profit.

"Farming" Continues.

The principles of organized baseball are quite sound and just enough. But there are too many loopholes for evasion. Even the roster limits are not conscientiously observed. In spite of the national commission's vigilance wholesale "farming" continues. Every big league club has a raft of embryo stars "covered up" as an emergency reserve. Nothing can be done to stop it. Players who might help the weaker clubs are kept on the benches of the flag contenders or planted out somewhere in such a manner that they are safe from the dragnet of rivals.

If it could be proved by fair trial that Ed Barrow's idea is practical, it would be solved not only one of the greatest puzzles of the promoters, but one of the greatest ills of the players as well. By the same stroke would be canceled the necessary evil of the reserve clause, which has threatened congressional investigation of baseball as a trust. Baseball contracts as at present constituted are illegal. They are not equitable. A player may be discharged on ten days' notice; he is bound for athletic life to the club with which he signs through the instrument of a reserve clause. That no greater injustices result is due largely to the broad-mindedness of the national commission. Yet in spite of all, injustices exist.

Take the case of any star ball player who is so unfortunate as to be a member of a poor club. Rucker of Brooklyn, for the past five years is a fitting example. Brooklyn could not afford to pay him as much as could, say, New York. There was absolutely no hope for the future. Bound hand and foot to the Dodgers, no ray of world's series sunshine broke through to cheer him.

Better for Players.

It would be the best thing in the world for players if they were put up to be drawn each season. There would be far more novelty to the life, a better chance of general advancement in salary because of ever-changing interest of fandom and less likelihood of discontent in the ranks.

It might come hard at first to give up old idols of years. We all would grieve to see the gallant Matty go to Chicago, or the infielder of Pendleton, who was sold to the Chicago White Sox, left this week to report to the major league club. Rader is an ex-University of Oregon boy and made decidedly good with the league. It is predicted that he will make good with the Sox.

The league batting averages have been compiled and include the averages of the players who played in the first two series of the present schedule. The official averages are as follows:

AB Hts. P.C.

Alternet, Boise 20 12 .400

Bark, Boise 27 12 .444

Bismarck, Boise 23 11 .435

Netek, Yakima 17 7 .412

Nelson, Yakima 28 12 .429

Johnso, Walla 26 12 .462

Varian, Pendleton 16 6 .375

Haward, Pendleton 25 9 .360

Sheeler, Walla 25 8 .320

Berger, Pendleton 9 2 .222

Bonner, Boise 6 2 .333

Wigler, Boise 19 4 .211

Brown, Walla 24 2 .083

Stolte, Yakima 21 7 .333

Avril Great Trotter.

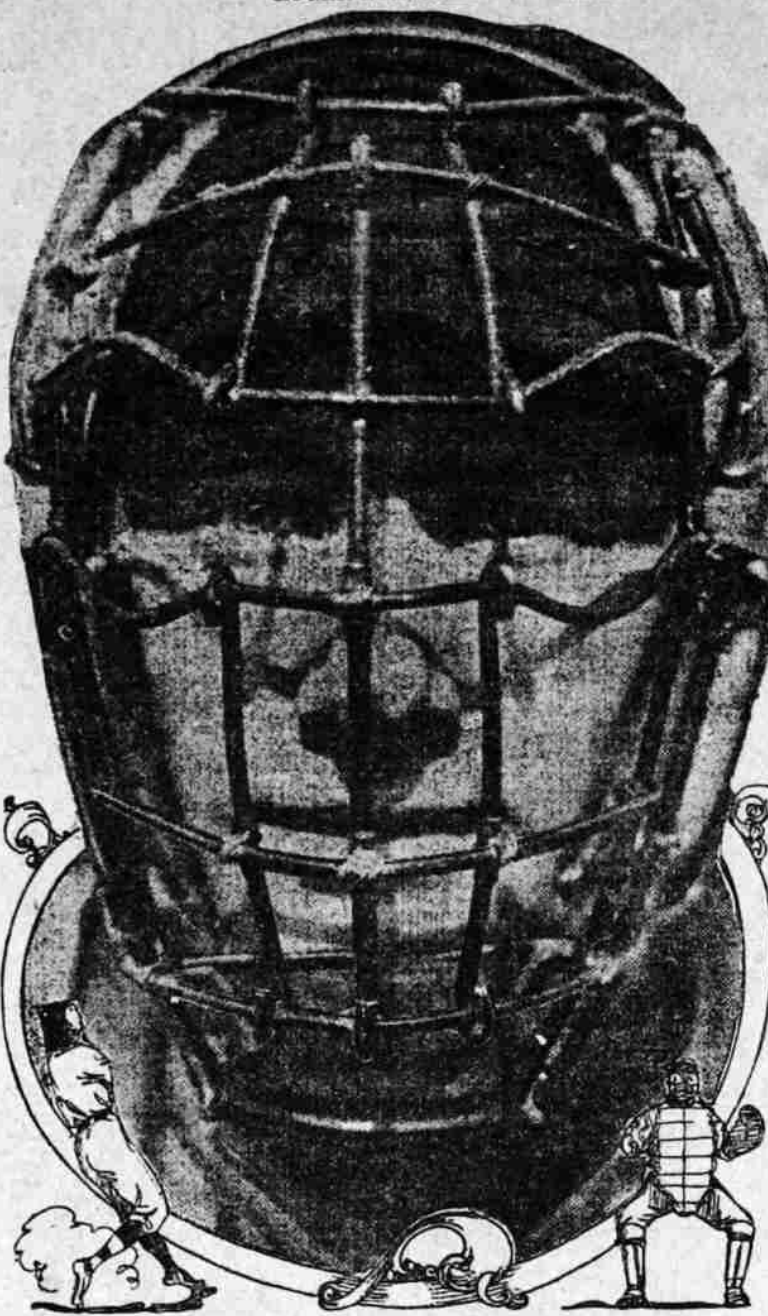
DAYTON, O., July 26.—Of the great stake trotters that have proved dominant in their grand circuit campaigns, few have shown the class of Ed J. Geer's little stallion Avril (2:04) first met 2:05 trotter of 1913. It is said by the knowing ones that Avril could have trotted in 2:03 during his recent Cleveland, O., race, the Championship trot, which he won in straight heats. It is difficult indeed, in these days of rich blood lines, to find a really high-class trotter, but in Avril the turf has one that has proved his superiority over the great stake trotters of the last two or three racing seasons.

Greek Olympic Next Spring.

Greece will celebrate the victory over the Turks by holding its postponed Olympic games next spring.

"Rajah" Has Lost None of His Cunning

ROGER BRESNAHAN.



ROGER BRESNAHAN, the hard-hitting backstop of the Chicago Cubs, has been playing his usual star game behind the bat since the dismemberment of the last sliver of the team's single handed.

from the first inning to the last, has lost none of his old cunning in trapping runners on the base lines and is continuing to lead off, miles of opposing teams single handed.

HEAVY HITTERS IN
WESTERN TRI-STATE

STAKES FOR LATONIA
AND DOUGLAS PARK

BOISE, Ida., July 26.—The third umpire to take his place from the Western Tri-State league since it opened its second season this year is Connie Starkell, ex-Northwestern leaguer and at one time a pitcher of some note. Starkell made the unfortunate slip of getting in bad with some of the team managers and fans. A demand was made for his removal and President W. N. Sweet, after taking the matter under consideration, released him Jimmie Richardson, Boise scorer for the league and well known as a coast sporting writer some years ago, was appointed by President Sweet to succeed Starkell.

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Herzog Stands on Head to Tag Runner

PHOTO BY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE.

THIS photograph shows a remarkable play that occurred during the recent New York-Cincinnati series at the Polo grounds in New York. In the sixth inning, with two out, Josh Devore singled, Bob Beecher, Cincinnati's speed demon, followed with another clean swing on a hit-and-run play. Murray, New York's speedy right fielder, came in fast for the ball and Devore hit the dirt in a twisting slide away from Herzog, and the folks down in Jersey county, Illinois, have protested. Also the young star's name has been spelled wrong. The high-priced recruit, declared his real name is La Verne Chappell, there being no "a" at the end. The name "Larry" is a nickname applied since he began playing ball.

Young Larry also denied that he was French. So far as he knows, there is no French blood in his veins. His father, Fred Chappell, is English, and so born and spent his entire life right down in Jersey county.

"It makes no difference to me," said the boy outfielder, "what they call me or how they spell my name. My father always spelled it 'Chappell'."

A mistake has been made in the pedigree of Comiskey's \$18,000 outfielder, and the folks down in Jersey county, Illinois, have protested. Also the young star's name has been spelled wrong. The high-priced recruit, declared his real name is La Verne Chappell, there being no "a" at the end. The name "Larry" is a nickname applied since he began playing ball.

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